



# Maricopa County

Department of Public Health

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October 12, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

We have received a lot of requests for a vaccine update and I want to do my best to keep you in the loop, even though things continue to change daily.

First off, to give you an idea of how vaccine ordering for the novel H1N1 works, the federal government announces each state's allotment and then our state breaks that allotment number down by percentage of each county's population.

After our first week of ordering, we discovered that instead of receiving one vaccine allocation per week from which Maricopa County would place its order, we began receiving much smaller daily allocations (of course we didn't know they were "daily" allocations until we received one each on Tuesday, Wed. and Thurs. and Fri.) In addition, we are required to place our county allocation order to the state within a few hours so that the state can place the order with the CDC.

Easy, right? Here is how our vaccine ordering has looked like in the last two weeks:

## **Week 1**

Sept. 28: Maricopa County was allocated 37K doses; all of it live attenuated (LAIV) nasal mist

Strategy: All was sent to hospitals for hospital-based health care workers (HCWs) and to emergency medical workers. Most of it arrived the week of Oct. 5.

## **Week 2**

Oct. 6: Maricopa County receives allocation of 12,300 doses; all multi dose vials

Oct. 7: Maricopa County receives allocation of 8,400 doses; all multi dose vials

Oct. 8: Maricopa County receives allocation of 26,100 doses; all LAIV

Oct. 9: Maricopa County receives allocation of 26,100 doses; all LAIV

Strategy: All vaccine was focused on kids and pregnant women. This was accomplished by sending vaccine to pediatricians, Ob/Gyn's and those large groups that see this population. Vaccine is scheduled to arrive sometime this week.

Most of those that requested vaccine got nothing yet. Nothing for Family Practice. Nothing for any other providers. Nothing for school clinics. Nothing for WIC sites. Nothing for alternate sites to which you can send patients. Nothing for County immunization clinics and nothing further for the many HCWs we haven't yet covered. And no one got all that they asked for.

Last week was a real vaccine roller coaster. We began the week believing we would be allocated far less than what was originally planned. However, by the end of the week, we ended up "catching up." At the end of the week, our vaccine order was closer to what we originally thought we would be receiving (though we received

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much more LAIV than was originally planned and no pre-filled syringes.) These daily allocations made it much more challenging to plan, but we got through the week.

So what's next? Given our experience of last week, I expect the daily allocations to continue and this means a lot of moving parts on our end. Because we will not know our weekly allocation at the beginning of the week, it is difficult to do proper planning for opening mass clinics. However, in this week's order, we simply *must* begin to supply some of those categories I listed above for which nothing is yet ordered.

This means that those of you who signed up to receive vaccine should continue to see it trickling out to your practices. On the other hand, if you're looking for other places to send your patients, please check in often to [www.StopTheSpreadAZ.org](http://www.StopTheSpreadAZ.org) or [www.FluAZ.org](http://www.FluAZ.org) and we will list locations as soon as they are available.

Sorry this is not better news. I know you will have a lot of patients banging down your doors for vaccine and we will do our best to send out appropriate public messaging and also to keep you updated on the situation. All I ask right now is your patience as we work to get through the next few weeks. I recognize that we all have a vital role to play in this response, and trust me, I am doing all I can to make sure you have the tools you need to take care of your patients.

Hang in there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob England, MD".

Bob England, MD, MPH  
Director  
Maricopa County Department of Public Health